

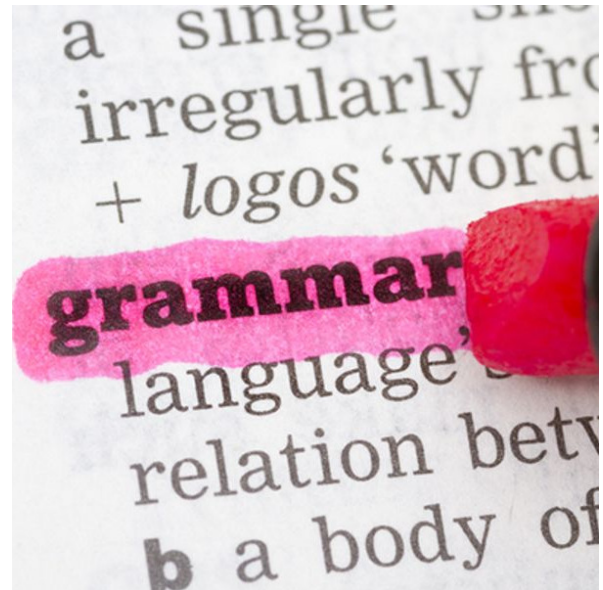


PRESENT SIMPLE VS. PRESENT CONTINUOUS



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1889-26H9-3Z1R



1

Simple vs. continuous

Present simple

We use the **present simple** to talk about repeated actions or permanent situations in the present:

I always **travel** to work by car. I **live** in Madrid. I sometimes **play** football on Sundays.

Present continuous

We use the **present continuous** to talk about actions happening now or around the present time:

I'm **learning** English at the moment. I live in Madrid, but I'm **staying** in Barcelona this week.

Only verbs of action can be used in the continuous form, e.g. **I'm working**, **she's singing**, etc. Some verbs such as **believe**, **know**, **love** are states, not actions. **State verbs** can normally only be used in the simple form (I **love**, not I'm **loving**).

State verbs: *want, like, love, hate, prefer, know, realise, understand, believe, remember, seem, mean, etc.*

Some verbs can be **action** or **state** verbs, with a change in meaning:

STATES

I **think** you need to relax more. (= I believe, in my opinion)

I **see** that you are very tired. (= my observation)

She **is** stupid. (= her general character)

ACTIONS

What **are you thinking** about? (think = 'use your brain')

'Where is Anne?' 'I'm **seeing** her right now.' (= 'I'm meeting her')

She **is being** stupid. (= 'she is behaving in this way right now')

Dialogue

A: What **do you do**?

B: I'm a salesman. I **live** and **work** in Rome.

A: Interesting. So, what **are you doing** here in London?

B: I'm just **visiting**. I **love** this city.





2

Practice 1

Put the verbs in brackets in the present simple or present continuous:

1. I often _____ (go) to work by bus.
2. Where _____ (you/live)?
3. Be quiet! Paulina _____ (study) for her exam.
4. Don't turn off the radio. I _____ (listen) to it.
5. Tom _____ (work) as an architect for a large firm in London. This month, his company _____ (design) a new office building for one of its main clients.
6. I usually _____ (play) golf on Saturdays, but today I _____ (play) tennis.
7. Pablo is a journalist - he _____ (write) articles for a well-known newspaper. Right now, he _____ (write) about the economic situation in his country.
8. Look! Sarah _____ (drink) a glass of wine. She _____ (not/usually/drink) alcohol at this time of day.

3

Practice 2

Watch the video. Answer the questions about each clip.

drive kids to school

examine a brochure

give classes

look and turn

make an omelette

protect the public

go to school

take notes

walk down the street

work as a chef

work as a printer

write on the board

Video



1. What do they do? They go to school.
What are they doing? They are taking notes.
2. What does she do?
What is she doing?
3. What does he do?
What is he doing?
4. What does he do?
What is he doing?
5. What do they do?
What are they doing?
6. What does he do?
What is he doing?

Now answer the questions about you:

1. What do you do?
2. What are you doing?





4

Practice 3 - State verbs

Put the verbs in brackets in the present simple or present continuous:

1. We _____ (need) to wait. I _____ (not/know) how long.
2. I _____ (not/like) this dress. I _____ (prefer) that one.
3. I _____ (not/understand) what that _____ (mean). Can you explain it?
4. Janet _____ (be) single. She _____ (not/see) anyone at the moment.
5. Tom _____ (think) of emigrating to Australia.
6. Right now, I _____ (not/see) a problem. I _____ (think) everything is fine.
7. Why _____ (she/be) here? I _____ (not/remember) inviting her.
8. I _____ (see) that you _____ (be) very busy at the moment. I'll come back later.
9. Don't use this tool. It _____ (seem) to be broken.
10. _____ (you/realise) what that _____ (mean)?
11. You _____ (be) normally a very polite person. Why _____ (you/be) so rude right now?
12. Josh _____ (love) Alice. Unfortunately, Alice _____ (not/think) much of him.

5

Practice 4

Complete the questions below using the present simple or present continuous. Then give true answers.

1. You / often / wear / jeans?
2. You / wear / jeans / right now?
3. It / often / rain / in your country?
4. It / rain / at the moment?
5. You / ever / work / on Saturdays?
6. You / work / today?
7. You / sometimes / think / about moving to another country?
8. You / think / about moving to another country / at the moment?
9. You / see / the dentist / this week?
10. You / sometimes / play / tennis?
11. You / play / tennis now?





6 Present continuous with 'always'

We often use the **present continuous** with **always** to talk about something that happens again and again. The meaning is like the present simple, but it usually describes a habit that is irritating.

She's **always talking** about people behind their backs.

He's **always arriving** late.

I'm **always losing** my keys!

We can also use the **present continuous** with **always** to emphasise other repeated actions and behaviour.

We're **always looking** for new employees. (= We often look for new employees)

I'm **always reading** something. (= I read very often)

Joe is a very generous person. He's **always lending** his friends money. (= he lends money to his friends very often)

7 Practice 5

Complete the sentences below with a suitable verb and 'always', like in the example.

browse
misunderstand

buy
rain

eat
smile

look for
forget

make
talk

1. Peter is always forgetting his keys. It's a real problem.
2. Anna _____ on the phone. Her phone bill must be very expensive!
3. Jeff is a very cheerful person. He _____ .
4. You'll need an umbrella. It _____ in London.
5. Simon _____ the Internet. He needs to get out of his room.
6. You _____ what I say. Try to listen more carefully.
7. The company have too many customers, so they _____ new staff.
8. Joe _____ a chocolate bar. He really enjoys food!
9. You _____ the wrong milk! I don't drink full-fat milk.
10. I _____ the same mistakes! It's so irritating.

Do you have any habits that are irritating?

